

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Block Island School  
January 9, 2012  
7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, January 9, 2012, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The following members were present: Elizabeth Connor, Patricia Doyle, Ann Hall, Sean McGarry, and William Padien. Robert Hicks was also in attendance.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion (McGarry, Hall) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 19, 2011, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

**Reports**

Mr. Hicks submitted a copy of the correspondence dated March 18, 2005, from the Department of Attorney General to Roy Seitsinger, Superintendent of Exeter-West Greenwich School Department, with an advisory opinion on the open forum portion of school committee meetings, explaining that a discussion cannot take place on any topic brought up by a member of the public. Committee members were still divided on whether to include an open form on the agenda and asked Mr. Hicks to research which districts include public comment sections and whether public input is sought as part of the discussion during the meeting.

Mr. Hicks stated that the electricity line is a concern, but most of the numbers are similar to last month's report. A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the fiscal report through December 31, 2011, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

**Old Business**

A motion (Padien, McGarry) to approve Policy GD: Notification to Parents/Subsequent Action for Head Lice Infestation as written carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve Policy HIA: Student Activities Advisors as written carried with a vote of 5-0.

At last month's discussion on the school schedule change Mr. Hicks was asked to report back on the possible standards for Monday-Thursday games, an outline of what might be the focus for the last two periods on Fridays, and a list of outstanding issues. Mr. Hicks submitted a table of possible scenarios with zero to four home and away games taking place for each of the three sports on Mondays-Thursdays and the number of "days" missed with each scenario. He also included a line with a 10 percent scenario that provides an adjustment for the number of games with basketball having a higher allowance because of the greater number of games scheduled during the season. Elizabeth Connor requested additional lines to the table that included the current schedule and league vs. non-league games. Ann Hall liked the idea of looking into Wednesday afternoon/ evening games with the students spending the night on the mainland and returning on the 6:30 boat Thursday morning. League games (basketball) were scheduled for

every Friday and Saturday this year and the suggestion was made to eliminate non-league games from the schedule. William Padien suggested that since there are several weeks between seasons time/classes could be made up on Fridays when there aren't any games. In discussing the length of the day, it was suggested that it could be more problematic to start earlier than to end later. Sean McGarry requested more information on when other Rhode Island schools begin and end their days and whether any of them have a seven-hour day. Mr. Hicks reminded the committee that the 10-minute homeroom would be eliminated with the first period extended a few minutes for attendance and announcements. Long block, which is 17 minutes longer than the other periods, would also be eliminated. Mr. Hicks has started to look at the work schedules of part-time personnel, where to best fit in lunch for each group and recess for elementary/middle students. He will work on adding the actual games to the chart and think about how to incorporate Mr. Padien's suggestion into the schedule.

### **New Business**

Bids were solicited for propane gas, lawn maintenance, and freight delivery. No bids were received for freight delivery, one propane bid was received from Hull Suburban Propane and bids for mowing were received from Greenscape Mowing and Zarrella Development Corporation.

A motion (Padien, Doyle) to accept the propane bid in the amount of \$3.25 per gallon fixed submitted by Hull Suburban Propane carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to accept the mowing bid in the amount of \$250 per service submitted by Greenscape Mowing Service carried with a vote of 5-0.

Correspondence was received from Kristine Monje requesting support for her participation in Johnson & Wales University's Principal Residency Network (PRN) during the 2012-2013 school year, which is the last step in receiving her Rhode Island principal certification. The PRN partners qualified aspiring principals with outstanding mentor principals for an intensive residency. Mrs. Monje would spend half of her time with a mainland mentor (Deborah Zepp of Matunuck Elementary School) and the other half at Block Island School serving as a math coach to support our teachers in implementing the mathematics common core standards. The district would cover Mrs. Monje's salary and an additional \$60,000 would need to be budgeted to hire a teacher for the fourth grade classroom. Mr. Hicks sees this as an investment in the future of our school through competent leadership that is island based and committed to the community. School Committee members questioned the budgetary impact and wondered if one of the other longer residencies would be better. Members also questioned whether we could be sure we were getting the best math coach if the position wasn't advertised. Mr. Hicks stated that this had been discussed with the Dana Center representative and there were no doubts that Mrs. Monje is qualified to be the math coach as the work would be less about content than instructional implementation in the classroom. Other concerns included whether there would be a commitment for Mrs. Monje to continue to work at Block Island School for a certain number of years if this were approved. Members were not ready to make a decision and requested that it be included on the January 23 agenda.

Rob Closter submitted correspondence requesting an additional coaching stipend for girls' varsity basketball because no one applied to fill the assistant position. Policy HC: Athletic Compensation states that the School Committee would consider additional compensation for a head coach if there is no assistant during the athletic season. A motion (Padien, McGarry) to approve Rob Closter's request for additional compensation carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks submitted a memorandum on the 2012-2013 budget revenues with local appropriations at the maximum allowed or \$173,706. However, it was noted that the town has not been able to support the maximum under the property tax cap for the past several years. At the next two meetings Mr. Hicks will discuss expenditures.

### **Calendar of Events**

A calendar of events for the months of January and February was submitted for School Committee review. The next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 23.

### **Correspondence**

Correspondence was received from Crossroads Rhode Island thanking the honor society students for their \$300 donation.

### **Executive Session**

A motion (Padien, McGarry) at 9:27 p.m. to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(2) for contract negotiations carried with a vote of 5-0.

### **Open Session**

A motion (Padien, Connor) at 10:30 p.m. to return to open session carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to seal the minutes of the executive session meeting carried with a vote of 5-0.

### **Adjournment**

A motion (Padien, Doyle) at 10:31 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved